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SAPC 7029
copy 1 of 6

18 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: James Q. Reber, Intelligence
Requirements Officer

SUBJECT: Intelligence Obtained in Satisfaction of
General Turner's Requirements

1. I noted your memorandum of 14 June on your conversation with Colonel Macia (SAPC 7026). Your conversation was supplemented by another held at 1800 on 15 June between General Cabell and myself on the one hand and Generals Twining and Lewis on the other. As a result of these two conversations the position with respect to our missions over the Satellites is set forth in the following paragraphs.

2. All concerned are in agreement that it is operationally unwise to employ the AQUATONE specialized reconnaissance system for targets of as low priority as those in the Satellites, especially since these targets can be pretty safely covered by the use of other less advanced equipment. On the other hand, it is also recognized by all concerned that we have in effect been instructed by higher authority that at least a few missions limited to the Satellites must be flown in order finally to prove out our weapons system before we will be permitted to employ it for deep penetration missions of the USSR, the purpose for which it was designed. Accordingly, there is no disagreement as to the course of action to be followed.

3. The commitment it is proposed to make to General Turner is simply that during our initial missions over the Satellites and, where appropriate, on the outward and homeward legs of longer range missions, we will obtain as complete a coverage of his targets as possible. For the initial phase when missions are restricted to the Satellites, the decision has already been made, for the reasons indicated in the preceding paragraph, to incur the risks involved even though the targets are of limited importance. In the later phase when deep penetrations are in progress, it is understood that coverage of the Satellites will be strictly a by-product of operations justified by much higher priority requirements.

4. I note with pleasure that AFOIN will assure that AQUATONE photography reaches General Turner through the TALENT channels.


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I trust that we will be able to reassure General Tunner on this point should it ever arise as between a representative of the Project organization and one of headquarters.

6. I appreciate the assurance that AFOIN will be in a position to advise General Tunner what we are doing so that he will not duplicate our missions. In my opinion, however, we should be clear that the channel for such coordination of operations does not run through AFOIN. As you are aware, we have had extensive discussions, prompted by Colonel Berg, with the Control Center in the Pentagon under Colonel Victor Cabas. This Control Center is responsible for monitoring all reconnaissance activity on behalf of the Air Staff and it is the logical and proper point for the coordination of Project with USAF operations. I would not suggest making an issue of this point with Colonel Macia but if the matter ever arises you might explain to him such an arrangement is in effect.


RICHARD M. BISSELL, Jr.
Project Director

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2-Dep. Proj. Dir.

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